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Tuskegee Press Release 6

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NEWS RELEASE

SPECIAL TO: HOWARD UNIVERSITY ALUMNI MAGAZINE, WASHINGTON, D.C.

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS, Italy -- Two Washington soldiers, Second

Lieutenant George B. Van Buren and Staff Sergeant William E. Bennett, former collegiate athletes, recently completed a course in coaching at the Central Sports School in Rome sponsored by Special Service, Mediterranean Theater of Operations.

Lt. Van Buren is the son of Mr. B.J. Van Buren, 621 Gresham Place, N.W., Washington, D.C. He is an Athletic Officer with the 609th Ordnance Company. Sgt. Bennett is the son of Colonel and Mrs. Claire E. Bennett, Washington, D.C. He is a Platoon Sergeant with the 21st Special Service Company.

Students attending the sports school will serve as instructors and coaches in Army athletic programs. Classes are held in gymnasiums and stadiums once used by Mussolini to train Fascist troops. Immediately upon completion of the course men are returned to their outfits to begin expansion of the units' athletic programs.

Lt. Van Buren was attending Howard University, Washington, D.C., at the time of his entry into the Army. He was captain of the football team in 1940. Sgt. Bennett played football and basketball at the University of Hawaii, Honolulu, I. H., and later on industrial teams in the Territory.

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In tennis he was a semi-finalist in the Territory Tournament in 1940 and 1941. In 1939 and 1940 he was on the swimming teams of the Outrigger Canoe Club in Honolulu.

Overseas 31 months, Lt. Van Buren wears the American Defense Ribbon and the Mediterranean Theater Ribbon with four Battle Participation Stars.

Sgt. Bennett, overseas 34 months, wears the American Defense Ribbon, the North American Defense Ribbon, the Pacific Theater Ribbon, the Mediterranean Theater Ribbon with five Battle Participation Stars and the Good Conduct Medal.

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